

WYOMING



VOL. 25 NO. 4 APR. 1988

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Jan '88	Feb '88
Labor Force	227,780	228,542
Employment	207,487	208,788
Unemployment	20,293	19,754
Rate (Raw)	8.9	8.6
Rate (S.A.)	7.6	7.3
Mining Hourly Wage	\$14.54	\$14.70
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.2	42.3
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	5.8	5.7
Mining Hourly Wage	\$12.67	\$12.60
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	42.0	41.9
Consumer Price Index All Urban (1982-1984 = 100)		
U.S. City Avg.	115.7	116.0
Year Change (U.S.)	+4.0	+3.9
S.A. - Seasonally Adjusted		

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Wyoming Union Membership
- Graph Of Unemployment Rates For Selected Countries
- ACCRA* Cost of Living Comparisons, Fourth Quarter 1987

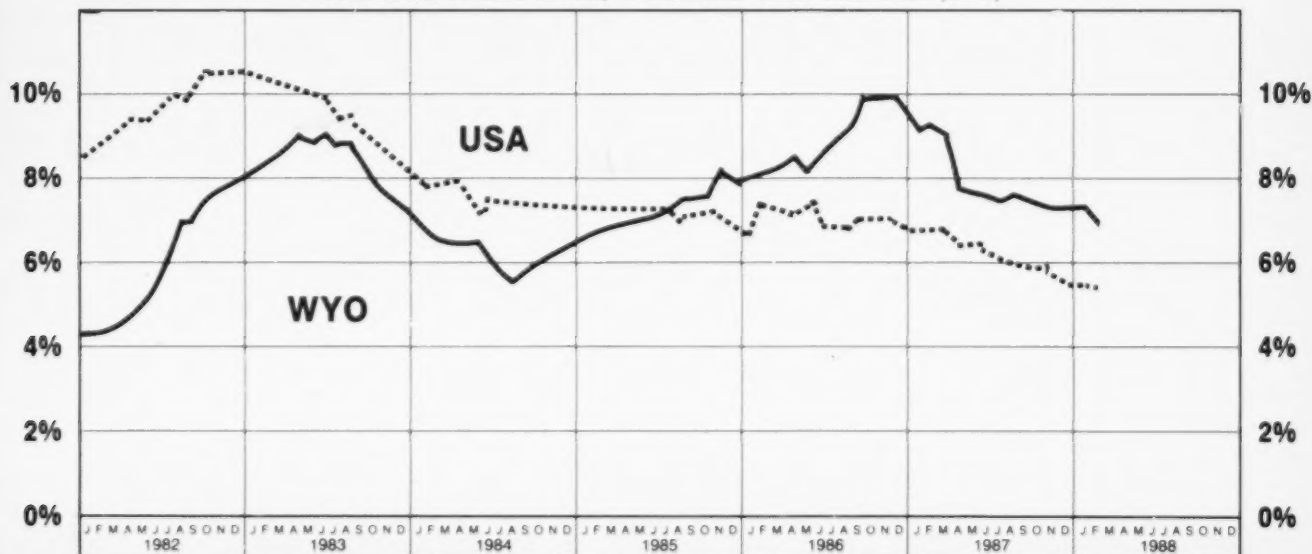
NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT LOWEST SINCE JULY 1979

With the national economy expanding by more than a half-million new jobs over-the-month in February, the nation's civilian unemployment rate dropped to 5.7 percent. July, 1979 was the last time the rate was this low. In fact only once since 1974, in May of 1979 when the rate was 5.6 percent, has the percentage of jobless Americans been lower.

The just released March U.S. rate dropped to 5.6 percent.

Over-the-year, in February, national employment was up by 3.0 million workers, an increase of nearly three percent. As has been the case in recent years the service industry lead the annual gain, up over 1.1 million new jobs, followed by trade and manufacturing.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

White adult men had the lowest unemployment, 4.1 percent, in February down a full percentage point of a year ago. White adult women followed at 4.5 percent. Black teenagers had the highest unemployment at 38.3 percent, much higher than the white teenage rate of 12.4 percent.

WYOMING UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN IN FEBRUARY

Wyoming's unemployment registered its first seasonal decline of the new year. The February rate, at 8.6 percent, compared to 8.9 percent in January and 12.6 percent in February, 1987.

The seasonally adjusted employment rate at 7.3 percent for February, was also down from 7.6 percent a month ago and 10.7 percent a year ago.

Wyoming's unemployment rate ranked eighth highest in the nation in January, at 8.9 percent, the latest month data is available for all states. In the Rocky Mountain area Idaho and Montana had higher unemployment, both at 9.5 percent. On the other side of the coin Colorado, Utah, Nebraska, and South Dakota had lower unemployment at 7.8, 6.7, 5.2, and 4.7 percent.

Again, in February, Natrona County had the largest number of people looking for work, more than 2,700, with an unemployment rate of 8.9 percent. However, that is well over five percentage points down from the 14.5 percent recorded in February, 1987. Laramie County was close behind with more than 2,400 out of work and a lower rate of 6.7 percent because of a larger labor force.

Honors for the lowest unemployment in the state, 4.6 percent, went to Teton County. Albany County followed, with 4.9 percent. The Jackson area, a continuing bright spot in the Wyoming economy, also had both the highest numerical annual growth in the labor force, almost 800, and the highest annual percentage growth rate, 9.3 percent.

WYOMING'S LABOR FORCE REGISTERS SEASONAL UPTURN

The Wyoming civilian labor force reflected a slight seasonal gain in February, less than one percent, but continued down over-the-year by over 10,500, or 4.4 percent. The February labor force stood at just over 228,500, its lowest February level since 1980 when it registered 217,800. The number of employed workers in the state, at about 208,800, indicated a seasonal monthly gain in February and remained at about the year ago level.

Around the state, during February, 17 of the 23 counties in the state registered annual declines in their labor force. For more details refer to Table 2. Of the major industries only manufacturing, mining, services, and government indicated annual employment gains. All other industries were at or below year ago levels.

WYOMING UNION MEMBERSHIP

Almost 10 percent of Wyoming's workforce was union affiliated during August of 1987, according to a survey conducted by the Wyoming Department of Labor and Statistics. Of the estimated 226,061 workers in the state, 22,422 were determined to be union members. The results of the survey appear in the publication, *Directory of Wyoming Labor Organizations, 1987-1988*.

The survey revealed the greatest concentration of union affiliated workers was within government, which claimed 11,331 members or 50.5 percent of the overall state total. Transportation and public utilities was second with 5,147 members or 22.9 percent. The remaining industries in Wyoming had less than 10 percent of the state's total union labor.

Some counties in Wyoming have higher percentages of unionized labor than others. For example, approximately 22 percent of Sweetwater County's employment is affiliated with a union, while Teton County has just 1.5 percent of its employment carrying union cards.

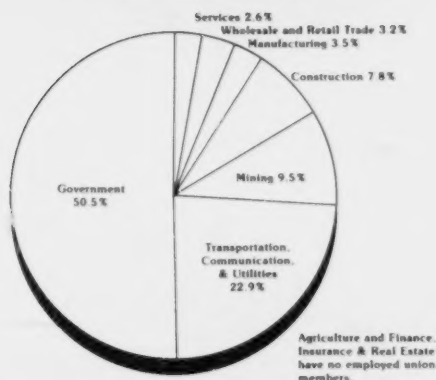
Union membership over the last few years in Wyoming has been on the decline as a result of Wyoming's poor economy. In 1987 the number of union members declined by 2,056 year-to-year, and the percent of union members to total employment (9.9 percent) is the lowest such ratio posted in the 1980's. The previous low was recorded in 1984 at 10.2 percent, the highest was computed at 13.8 percent in 1980.

WYOMING COUNTIES RANKED BY PERCENT OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT UNIONIZED August, 1987

COUNTY	EMPLOYMENT	EMPLOYED UNION MEMBERS	PERCENT OF TOTAL EMPLOY- MENT UNIONIZED
1. Sweetwater	16,645	3,729	22.4
2. Platte	3,864	745	19.3
3. Carbon	7,935	1,255	15.8
4. Laramie	34,837	5,143	14.8
5. Converse	5,057	713	14.1
6. Lincoln	5,911	759	12.8
7. Big Horn	4,289	508	11.8
8. Sheridan	11,504	1,162	10.1
9. Washakie	4,493	448	10.0
10. Goshen	5,645	489	8.7
11. Natrona	29,053	2,329	8.0
12. Fremont	13,500	1,052	7.8
13. Uinta	9,440	634	6.7
14. Albany	15,186	932	6.1
15. Hot Springs	2,917	178	6.1
16. Weston	3,085	184	6.0
17. Campbell	14,307	791	5.5
18. Sublette	2,629	142	5.4
19. Park	13,586	684	5.0
20. Johnson	3,324	164	4.9
21. Crook	2,968	120	4.0
22. Niobrara	2,033	53	2.6
23. Teton	13,854	208	1.5
Statewide	226,061	22,422	9.9

Source: *Directory of Wyoming Labor Organizations, 1987-1988*, Wyoming Department of Labor & Statistics. County and statewide employment figures are revised August, 1987. Local Area Unemployment Statistics Figures, Research and Analysis, February 1988.

PERCENT OF TOTAL EMPLOYED UNION MEMBERS IN WYOMING BY INDUSTRY



Source: *Directory of Wyoming Labor Organizations 1987-1988*, Wyoming Department of Labor and Statistics.

Prepared by: W.E.S.C., Research and Analysis, March 1988.

HISPANIC GROWTH CONTINUES

According to a recent Census Bureau report, the nation's Hispanic population in March, 1987 reached 18.8 million, a 30% increase since 1980 compared with 6% for the non-Hispanic population. Other findings include:

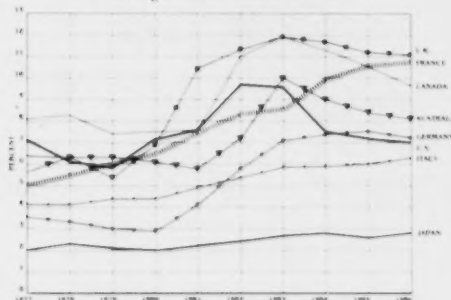
"The Central & South American Origin population grew the fastest during the last five years. (40%)."

"One-fourth of Hispanic families were living below poverty level in 1986 compared to 10% of non-Hispanic families. One-half of Hispanic families below poverty level were maintained by women with no husband present."

"One-half of Hispanics 25 years and over were high school graduates in 1987, a 6% improvement since 1982."

This information was obtained from *The Hispanic Population in the United States: March 1986 & 1987* (Advance Report), P-20, No. 416.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR SELECTED COUNTRIES 1977-1986 ANNUAL AVERAGE



Source: Monthly Labor Review, February, 1988

Prepared by: W.E.S.C., Research and Analysis, March 1988.

ACCRA* COST OF LIVING COMPARISONS – FOURTH QUARTER 1987

	ALL ITEMS	GROCERIES	HOUSING	UTILITIES	TRANSP.	HEALTH CARE	MISC.
Component Index Weights	100%	17%	22%	11%	13%	7%	30%
U.S. Average	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wyoming Cities:							
Casper	95.7	96.7	76.2	111.3	97.8	96.2	102.7
Neighboring Cities:							
Missoula, MT	98.4	102.7	82.6	85.1	100.0	115.0	107.9
Denver, CO	103.1	92.9	119.0	89.8	112.4	109.2	96.8
Omaha, NE	93.4	91.6	93.7	83.2	95.9	91.3	97.4
Rapid City, SD	98.0	103.9	92.9	101.4	98.7	112.4	93.5
Salt Lake City, UT	98.3	93.1	89.4	96.4	104.9	100.5	105.0
Highest U.S. City	152.3	154.7	261.3	185.5	122.7	202.1	130.6
	Boston MA	St. Thomas VI	Boston MA	New York NY	W. Palm Beach, FL	Juneau AK	Anchorage AK
Lowest U.S. City	86.2	86.0	69.2	57.4	79.0	71.7	86.4
	Cookeville TN	Provo UT	Pueblo CO	Seattle WA	Kennett MD	Cleveland TN	Sharon PA

Source: ACCRA*, American Chamber of Commerce Research Association

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1982-1984 = 100) ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	HOUSING	ENTERTAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
February 1988	116.0	115.8	116.6	118.3	110.2	106.8	135.5
Annual % Change	3.9	2.9	3.7	4.2	3.8	3.6	6.4

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

**WYOMING
ECONOMIC INDICATORS**

ITEM	FEB		JAN		FEB		Percent change From	
	1988 ¹		1988 ¹		1987 ²		A Month Ago	A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA								
Total Civilian Labor Force	228,542		227,780		239,108		0.3	- 4.4
Unemployment	19,754		20,293		30,202		- 2.7	- 34.6
Employed Labor Force	208,788		207,487		208,906		0.6	- 0.1
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law) ³	158,850		159,800		162,174		- 0.6	- 2.0
b. Agriculture ³	9,495		8,144		8,987		16.6	5.7
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	8.6%	7.3%*	8.9%	7.6%*	12.6%	10.7%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	6.2%	5.7%*	6.3%	5.8%*	7.2%	6.6%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) ⁴	3.9%		3.5%		5.5%		XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS								
Mining (Production Workers):								
Average Weekly Earnings	\$	621.81	\$	628.13	\$	596.90	- 1.0	4.2
Average Weekly Hours		42.3		43.2		40.8	- 2.1	3.7
Average Hourly Earnings	\$	14.70	\$	14.54	\$	14.63	1.1	0.5
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE								
Claims Filed in Local Offices	33,674		28,642		46,007		17.6	- 26.8
a. Initial	3,293		4,626		3,959		- 28.8	- 16.8
Weeks Compensated	24,017		21,066		43,379		14.0	- 44.6
Total Amount Benefits Paid	\$	3,760,705	\$	3,329,177	\$	7,055,960	13.0	- 46.7
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$	156.21	\$	157.69	\$	162.36	- 0.9	- 3.8
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE								
New Applications Received During Month	2,599		3,784		3,112		- 31.3	- 16.5
Non-Ag. Openings Received	1,236		1,780		1,578		- 30.6	- 21.7
Non-Ag. Placements	N.A.		N.A.		N.A.		XXX	XXX
UNITED STATES DATA								
HOURS & EARNINGS								
Mining (Production Workers):								
Average Weekly Earnings	\$	527.99	\$	532.14	\$	527.52	- 0.8	0.1
Average Weekly Hours		41.9		42.0		42.0	- 0.2	- 0.2
Average Hourly Earnings	\$	12.60	\$	12.67	\$	12.56	- 0.6	0.3
PRICE INDEXES								
Consumer Price Index 1982-84 = 100	116.0		115.7		111.6		0.3	3.9
Producer Prices, All Commodities 1982-84 = 100	104.6		104.5		101.0		0.1	3.6
Food and Beverage 1982-84 = 100	115.8		115.7		112.5		0.1	2.9

¹ Preliminary. ² Final. ³ Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. ⁴ Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT
 (Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	FEB 1988	JAN 1988	FEB 1987	%CHANGE JAN-FEB	%CHANGE FEB-FEB	FEB 1988	JAN 1988	FEB 1987	FEB 1988	JAN 1988	FEB 1987
Statewide	228,542	227,780	239,108	0.3	- 4.4	19,754	20,293	30,202	8.6	8.9	12.6
Statewide Seasonally adjusted									7.3	7.6	10.7
Albany	16,121	15,922	15,793	1.2	2.1	797	844	1,035	4.9	5.3	6.6
Big Horn	4,615	4,472	4,832	3.2	- 4.5	574	453	846	12.4	10.1	17.5
Campbell	14,756	14,639	16,101	0.8	- 8.4	1,343	1,226	2,237	9.1	8.4	13.9
Carbon	7,521	7,387	7,938	1.8	- 5.3	790	805	1,142	10.5	10.9	14.4
Converse	5,352	5,336	6,017	0.3	- 11.1	533	568	899	10.0	10.6	14.9
Crook	2,984	2,947	2,926	1.3	2.0	268	283	342	9.0	9.6	11.7
Fremont	15,832	15,696	16,545	0.9	- 4.3	1,664	1,761	2,266	10.5	11.2	13.7
Goshen	6,001	6,085	6,050	- 1.4	- 0.8	647	651	688	10.8	10.7	11.4
Hot Springs	3,004	3,040	2,935	- 1.2	2.4	189	200	274	6.3	6.6	9.3
Johnson	3,246	3,185	3,400	1.9	- 4.5	256	274	508	7.9	8.6	14.9
Laramie	35,859	36,059	35,768	- 0.6	0.3	2,404	2,658	3,098	6.7	7.4	8.7
Lincoln	5,906	6,013	6,678	- 1.8	- 11.6	718	813	1,146	12.2	13.5	17.2
Natrona	30,663	30,695	32,502	- 0.1	- 5.7	2,723	2,834	4,709	8.9	9.2	14.5
Niobrara	1,827	1,774	1,686	3.0	8.4	130	139	202	7.1	7.8	12.0
Park	12,104	11,941	12,376	1.4	- 2.2	1,044	1,042	1,467	8.6	8.7	11.9
Platte	4,346	4,305	4,380	1.0	- 0.8	415	406	575	9.5	9.4	13.1
Sheridan	11,811	11,710	12,517	0.9	- 5.6	974	966	1,427	8.2	8.2	11.4
Sublette	2,591	2,560	3,113	1.2	- 16.8	301	311	564	11.6	12.1	18.1
Sweetwater	18,011	17,915	20,505	0.5	- 12.2	1,903	1,983	3,250	10.6	11.1	15.8
Teton	9,049	9,067	8,281	- 0.2	9.3	414	478	566	4.6	5.3	6.8
Uinta	9,196	9,404	10,610	- 2.2	- 13.3	980	1,025	1,844	10.7	10.9	17.4
Washakie	4,577	4,451	4,719	2.8	- 3.0	436	326	679	9.5	7.3	14.4
Weston	3,171	3,173	3,438	- 0.1	- 7.8	251	245	439	7.9	7.7	12.8
United States									6.2	6.3	7.2
United States Seasonally adjusted									5.7	5.8	6.6

* The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition the 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING ¹

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Table 3

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	FEB 1988 ²	JAN 1988 ³	FEB 1987	JAN 1987	FEB 1987
	Total	Total	Total	to FEB 1987	to FEB 1988
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	173.3	173.6	174.7	- 0.2	- 0.8
Manufacturing	7.8	8.1	7.6	- 3.7	2.6
Durable Goods	3.6	3.6	3.4	0.0	5.9
Nondurable Goods	4.2	4.5	4.2	- 6.7	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	165.5	165.5	167.1	0.0	- 1.0
Mining	17.2	17.5	16.7	- 1.7	3.0
Contract Construction	7.0	7.2	8.4	- 2.8	- 16.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	12.4	12.6	12.9	- 1.6	- 3.9
Railroad Transportation	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.0	- 5.3
Transportation except Railroads	4.6	4.7	4.9	- 2.1	- 6.1
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.0	6.1	6.1	- 1.6	- 1.6
Wholesale & Retail Trade	38.7	39.0	38.9	- 0.8	- 0.5
Wholesale Trade	6.6	6.7	6.8	- 1.5	- 2.9
Retail Trade	32.1	32.3	32.1	- 0.6	0.0
Food Stores	4.8	4.8	4.8	0.0	0.0
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.1	5.1	5.3	0.0	- 3.8
Eating & Drinking Places	11.9	12.0	11.6	- 0.8	2.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.2	7.2	7.6	0.0	- 5.3
Services	30.9	30.9	30.8	0.0	0.3
Personal Services	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Medical & Other Health Services	7.7	7.7	7.3	0.0	5.5
Government	52.0	51.1	51.8	1.8	0.4
Federal Government	7.3	7.4	6.9	- 1.4	5.8
State & Local Government	44.7	43.7	44.9	2.3	- 0.4
State Government	13.3	13.0	13.3	2.3	0.0
Local Government	31.4	30.7	31.6	2.3	- 0.6

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING ¹
(Publication of Cheyenne data is not sanctioned by the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Table 3 (Cont'd)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	FEB 1988 ²	JAN 1988 ³	FEB 1987	JAN 1988	FEB 1987
	Total	Total	Total	to FEB 1988	to FEB 1988
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	26.0	25.9	26.3	- 0.4	- 1.1
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	8.3
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	24.7	24.6	25.1	0.4	- 1.6
Mining	2.5	2.6	2.3	- 3.8	8.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	2.3	2.4	2.1	- 4.2	9.5
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Contract Construction	1.1	1.1	1.2	0.0	- 8.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.7	1.7	1.8	0.0	- 5.6
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.8	7.8	7.5	0.0	4.0
Wholesale Trade	2.3	2.3	2.2	0.0	4.5
Retail Trade	5.5	5.5	5.3	0.0	3.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.4	1.4	1.5	0.0	- 6.7
Services	5.3	5.2	5.5	1.9	- 3.7
Government	4.9	4.8	5.3	2.1	- 7.5
Federal Government	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.0	- 14.3
State & Local Government	4.3	4.2	4.6	2.4	- 6.5
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	29.6	29.5	29.3	0.3	1.0
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.0	10.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	28.5	28.4	28.3	0.4	0.7
Contract Construction	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.0	6.6
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.0	7.0	6.8	0.0	2.9
Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	6.3	6.3	6.1	0.0	3.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.9	1.8	1.9	5.5	0.0
Services & Miscellaneous	5.7	5.7	5.6	0.0	1.8
Government	9.9	9.9	10.1	0.0	- 2.0
Federal Government	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	7.2	7.2	7.4	0.0	- 2.7

¹ Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. ² Subject to revision. ³ Revised figures.

RETURN IN 5 DAYS TO
Employment Security Commission of Wyoming

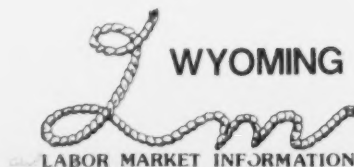
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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

The *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* is published monthly by the Research and Analysis Section of the Wyoming Employment Security Commission.

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ISSN 0512-4409